



U.S. Representative • 9<sup>TH</sup> CD, New York • Brooklyn-Queens

**ANTHONY D. WEINER**

Report

## **COPS OFF THE BEAT**

**An Analysis of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, Its Impact on New York, and the Impact of President Bush's Budget on New York Law Enforcement**

**Senator Charles Schumer**

**Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**Representative Anthony D. Weiner**

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**Presented by  
Congressman Anthony D. Weiner**

### **Executive Summary**

Over the past decade New York City has enjoyed an historic drop in crime rates. The total number of crimes is down 62%. Murders are down 67%. Rapes are down 41%. Burglaries are down 68%. Why? The answer is simple -- More cops equals less crime.

During the 90s, the size of the New York Police Department increased dramatically. And as the size of the force went up, the number of crimes went down by the thousands. Obviously, factors like the booming economy and smarter police strategies have had a downward effect on crime, but there's no denying that the expansion of the NYPD has made the City significantly safer.

This expansion was made possible by the determination of local officials

to invest in law enforcement. But the City couldn't do it alone. They needed a partner, and that partner was the federal Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS) program. COPS has put more than 110,000 new officers on the street nationwide, and no city better illustrates the success of COPS than New York.

The COPS program has provided \$538 million to the City to put more than 7,000 new officers on the beat. And as we said earlier, crime has subsequently plummeted.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has targeted the COPS hiring program for elimination. This policy is dubious when one considers the success of COPS, but it is completely illogical to eliminate the program in the wake of September 11. The demands on local law enforcement are greater than ever, and Congress should be expanding, not eliminating, the most comprehensive federal program for supporting local law enforcement.

To better understand the impact of eliminating the COPS program on New York City and the tri-state area, we have conducted the following analysis:

- We report data on COPS funding received and officers hired in the tri-state area.
- We use the City's historic share of COPS funding to project funding lost and officers not hired if COPS were eliminated
- We project and compare funding under the Bush budget to funding levels under the bipartisan COPS reauthorization bill (H.R. 2009/S. 924)
- We take a study done by the University of Nebraska which quantifies the estimated number of crimes prevented for every dollar of COPS funding, and translate the Nebraska formula into the estimated number of crimes prevented in New York City and area cities with populations over 50,000.

Our key findings were as follows:

- Over the next six years, the Bush budget cuts would cost the City \$148 million. That's lost funding for 1,980 officers.
- Over the next six years, the Bush budget cuts would cost New York State \$215,701,200. That's lost funding for 2,874 officers.

- Under the Schumer/Clinton/Weiner COPS reauthorization bill, New York City would receive \$270 million over the next six years. That's funding to pay the salaries of 3,594 officers.
- From 1995 to 2000, officers hired in New York City with COPS funding prevented an estimated 11,563 violent crimes, 47,429 property crimes and 58,992 crimes total.

This analysis confirms statistically what we already knew anecdotally: COPS works. Now, it's up to Congress to build on this successful program and ensure that it will continue to provide communities with the resources they need to make their neighborhoods safer and the quality of life for residents better.

Charles Schumer	Hillary Clinton	Anthony D. Weiner
United States Senator	United States Senator	Member of Congress

## Methodology

### **Table II: Funding lost under the Bush Budget**

We take total COPS hiring funding for major New York cities, Nassau and Suffolk County, and New York State and compare those numbers to the total COPS hiring funding provided nationwide to calculate the percentage of hiring funds that these areas have historically received.

We then take the current funding level for COPS hiring grants, \$330 million annually, assume that these areas would continue to receive the same percentage, and multiply \$330 million by that percentage to calculate the estimated amount of funding lost annually.

COPS grants received vary from year-to-year, so we project the numbers out to six years to get a more accurate assessment.

**For example, New York City has received \$537,396,240 in hiring funds over the life of the COPS program. \$7.1 billion in hiring grants have been awarded nationwide, making the City's percentage 7.49%. 7.49% of \$330 million is \$24,717,000. Over 6 years, that's \$148,302,000.**

### **COPS lost under the Bush Budget**

Federal COPS grants can provide up to \$25,000 a year over three years

to cover the costs of officers' salaries. Hence we assume that every \$75,000 in COPS funding equals funding for one officer.

**Table III: Projected Funding Under HR 2009/S 924 -- the COPS Reauthorization Bill**

We take total COPS hiring funding for major New York cities, Nassau and Suffolk County, and New York State and compare those numbers to the total COPS hiring funding provided nationwide to calculate the percentage of hiring funds that these areas have historically received.

We then take the funding levels under the COPS Reauthorization Bill (\$600 million annually), assume that these areas would continue to receive the same percentage, and multiply \$600 million by that percentage to calculate the amount of funding that would be received annually.

COPS grants received vary from year to year, and the bill reauthorizes the program for an additional six years, so we project the numbers for funding received over the next 6 years.

**Violent Crime Rates**

To calculate violent crime rates we first take the numbers from Table 3 of the University of Nebraska report. Table 3 shows that an increase in one dollar of COPS hiring grants per resident contributed to a corresponding decline of 5.26 violent crimes and an increase in one dollar of COPS innovative grants resulted in a decline of 12.93 violent crimes.

We take the sum of hiring grants (each grant is split across three years) given to cities with populations over 10,000 from 1994-1999 and multiply that number by the 5.26 found in the table and divide by 100,000. Then we multiply the sum of the innovative grants by 12.93 and divide by 100,000, but here we don't split up COPS funding because they are typically one year grants. Then we add them together. The following formula was used to calculate the numbers for violent crimes reduced in tri-state cities with populations over 10,000.

**The effect of COPS grants from 1994-1999 on violent crime from 1995-2000 =**

**$((5.26 * (\text{Hiring Grants}_{94} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{95} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{96} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{97} + (\text{Hiring Grants}_{98} * .72) + (\text{Hiring Grants}_{99} * .38))) + (12.93 * (\text{Innovative Grants}_{94} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{95} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{96} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{97} +$**

### **Innovative Grants<sub>98</sub> + Innovative Grants<sub>99</sub>))/100,000**

For example, from FY94 through FY99, \$215,968,505 was provided in hiring grants to New York City. From FY94 through FY99, \$1,571,235 was provided in innovative grants.

$$[(\$1,571,235 * 12.93) + (\$215,968,505 * 5.26)] / 100,000 = 11,563 \text{ violent crimes reduced in New York City}$$

### **Property Crime Rates**

For property crime rates we use the numbers from Table 4 of the Nebraska study. Table 4 shows that an increase in one dollar of COPS hiring grants per resident contributed to a corresponding decline of 21.63 property crimes and an increase in one dollar of COPS innovative grants resulted in a decline of 45.53 property crimes.

We then take the sum of hiring grants given to cities with populations over 10,000 from 1994-1999 and multiply it by the 21.63 found in the table and divide by 100,000. We multiply the sum of the innovative grants by 45.53 and divide by 100,000, but again we don't split up COPS funding because they are typically one year grants. Then we add them together. The following formula was used to calculate the number of violent crimes reduced in tri-state cities with populations over 10,000.

### **The effect of COPS grants from 1994-1999 on property crime from 1995-2000:**

$$((21.63 * (\text{Hiring Grants}_{94} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{95} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{96} + \text{Hiring Grants}_{97} + (\text{Hiring Grants}_{98} * .72) + (\text{Hiring Grants}_{99} * .38))) + (45.53 * (\text{Innovative Grants}_{94} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{95} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{96} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{97} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{98} + \text{Innovative Grants}_{99}))) / 100,000$$

For example, from FY94 through FY99, \$215,968,505 in hiring grants was provided to New York City FY94 through FY99, \$1,571,235 was provided in innovative grants.

$$[\$1,571,235 * 45.53] + (\$215,968,505 * 21.63) / 100,000 = 47,429 \text{ Property Crimes Reduced in New York City.}$$

It is important to note that these numbers represent a very conservative estimate of the effect of COPS grants on crime as they do not include civilian hiring grants or technology acquisition grants. Thus, these figures are most properly characterized as the MINIMUM number of crimes from 1995-2000 reduced by COPS grants awarded from 1994-1999.

**TABLE I: IMPACT OF COPS GRANTS IN NEW YORK CITIES AND COUNTIES**

City	Hiring \$	Officers
Albany	\$2,548,647	59
Buffalo	\$7,162,526	122
Jamestown	\$1,263,265	15
Mt. Vernon	\$1,807,620	28
Nassau County	\$27,397,864	876
New Rochelle	\$1,030,965	33
New York City	\$537,396,240	7,357
Newburgh	\$2,586,146	27
Niagara Falls	\$1,275,527	23
Poughkeepsie	\$1,424,938	27
Rochester	\$5,339,600	62
Rome	\$1,252,293	25
Schenectady	\$2,576,250	33
Suffolk County	\$34,994,617	408
Syracuse	\$3,943,128	58
Troy	\$1,754,892	17
Yonkers	\$3,552,756	96
New York State	\$781,455,651	11,877

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

**TABLE II: IMPACT OF BUSH CUTS TO NEW YORK COPS***Table II: COPS Funding Lost and Officers Not Funded Under Bush Proposal (FY03-FY08) (est.)*

City	Funding Lost	Officers Not Funded
Albany	\$708,267	9
Buffalo	\$1,990,428	27
Jamestown	\$351,060	5
Mt. Vernon	\$502,336	7
Nassau County	\$7,563,600	102
New Rochelle	\$286,504	4
New York City	\$148,302,000	1,980
Newburgh	\$718,688	10
Niagara Falls	\$354,468	5
Poughkeepsie	\$395,989	5
Rochester	\$1,483,871	20
Rome	\$348,011	5
Schenectady	\$715,938	10
Suffolk County	\$9,662,400	126
Syracuse	\$1,095,792	15
Troy	\$487,683	7
Yonkers	\$987,308	13
New York State	\$215,701,200	2,874

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, FY03 Budget of the United States Government

**TABLE III: NEW YORK IMPACT OF THE COPS REAUTHORIZATION BILL***Table III: Estimated Funding Received and Officers Funded Under H.R. 2009/S. 924 -- the COPS Reauthorization Bill (FY03-FY08)*

City	Hiring \$	Officers
Albany	\$1,287,758	17
Buffalo	\$3,619,021	48
Jamestown	\$638,291	9
Mt. Vernon	\$913,339	12
Nassau County	\$13,752,000	186
New Rochelle	\$1,030,965	33
New York City	\$269,640,000	3,594
Newburgh	\$1,308,221	17
Niagara Falls	\$644,487	9
Poughkeepsie	\$719,980	10
Rochester	\$2,697,947	36
Rome	\$632,748	8
Schenectady	\$1,301,706	17
Suffolk County	\$17,568,000	234
Syracuse	\$1,992,350	27
Troy	\$886,697	12
Yonkers	\$1,795,106	24
New York State	\$392,184,000	5,232
Source: U.S. Department of Justice, H.R. 2009/S. 924		

**TABLE IV: ESTIMATED NEW YORK CRIMES PREVENTED AS A RESULT OF COPS GRANTS**

Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

**Reports List**